


The Official Action rejects claims 1, 2, 17, 18, 49 and 50 as anticipated by JP 2003-287703 or CN 1448753. The Official Action rejects claims 3-4 and 19-22 as obvious based on JP '703.

In order to overcome these rejections, verified English translations of priority applications JP 2003-120782 and JP 2003-342803, each filed April 24, 2003, will be filed as soon as they are complete and received from Japan. Since JP '703 was published October 10, 2003, and since CN '753 was published October 15, 2003, which is later than the filing date of JP '782 and JP '803, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under §§ 102(a) and 103 should be overcome. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a) and 103 are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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